

## **6. Valid and Consistent Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA) Evidence**

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) uses the PQA throughout the year to assess local classroom structure, processes, and outcomes to document program effectiveness; and to provide information for program improvement and accountability. A GSRP Early Childhood Contact (ECC) who understands that the ECS is an invaluable teammate as well as the key to program quality will protect and support the ECS position in a variety of ways.

The ECC ensures that individual ECS classroom ratios reflect the intensive support and additional classroom visits, coaching and consultation that new staffs, struggling staffs or staffs with incomplete credentialing require.

The ECC is responsible to ensure that each ECS participates in the PQA recertification process annually to maintain status as a reliable assessor.

The ECC communicates regularly with the ECS team to guide and support their work. The ECC has a process for monitoring the work of the ECS team, including the ECS schedule of observation/feedback support to each assigned teaching team and completion of PQAs.

ECSs need time to reflect on what makes their work strong, and what hinders it. The ECC engages ECS teamwork by gathering the ECSs as a community of learners more than once per year to reflect on the ECS role and responsibilities. A variety of topics are addressed. The ECC will access, aggregate and analyze OnlinePQA information to support those serving in the ECS role across the ISD. Best practice includes addressing use of PQA with validity and alignment across ECSs regarding evidence/scoring in OnlinePQA.

\*Adapted from three sections of the *GSRP Implementation Manual*: ISD Administration of GSRP, Early Childhood Specialist and Program Evaluation.